

Listing of Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): ~~Use of~~ A method comprising:
providing a shaped article ~~containing~~ comprising at least one ~~skeleton-forming~~
scaffold-forming agent, proteins being excepted, optionally one or more
active substances and also optionally one or more auxiliary substances;
~~for the purpose of external application;~~
contacting the shaped article with water or an aqueous solution comprising one
or more active substances and/or auxiliary substances to form a solution
or gel comprising the scaffold-forming agent and at least one active
substance and/or at least one auxiliary substance; and
applying the solution or gel thus formed to an external skin and/or hair surface of
a human or an animal.

Claim 2 (currently amended): ~~Use~~ The method according to Claim 1 wherein the
solution or gel is applied ~~for the purpose of external~~ a cosmetic application purpose.

Claim 3 (currently amended): ~~Use~~ The method according to Claim 1 wherein the
solution or gel is applied ~~for the purpose of external~~ a therapeutic application purpose.

Claim 4 (currently amended): ~~Use~~ The method according to Claim 1, wherein the ~~skeleton-forming scaffold-forming~~ agent is at least one polysaccharide or a derivative thereof.

Claim 5 (currently amended): ~~Use~~ The method according to Claim 1, wherein the ~~skeleton-forming scaffold-forming~~ agent is sodium alginate.

Claim 6 (currently amended): ~~Use~~ The method according to Claim 1, wherein the shaped article has a volume of 0.1 cm³ to 6 cm³ and exhibits the geometrical shape of a sphere.

Claim 7 (currently amended): ~~Use~~ The method according to Claim 1, wherein the shaped article is ~~obtainable~~ formed by freeze drying of a frozen solution or dispersion ~~containing~~ comprising at least one ~~skeleton-forming scaffold-forming~~ agent, proteins being excepted, optionally one or more active substances and also optionally one or more auxiliary substances.

Claim 8 (currently amended): ~~Use~~ The method according to Claim 7, wherein the shaped article is ~~obtainable~~ formed by means of a process that comprises the following steps:

- (a) producing a solution or suspension that contains at least one biopolymer, optionally one or more physiologically effective active substances and also optionally one or more auxiliary substances,
- (b) pouring the solution into a mould,
- (c) freezing the solution in the mould and
- (d) freeze drying the frozen solution, forming the shaped article.

Claim 9 (currently amended): ~~Use of the shaped articles~~ The method according to Claim 1, wherein ~~external application of the shaped articles~~ article is undertaken ~~directly by the consumer~~ applied by the human directly to said human's own skin and/or hair.

Claim 10 (currently amended): ~~Use of the shaped articles~~ The method according to Claim 1, wherein the shaped article is moistened with water or with an aqueous solution of one or more active substances and/or auxiliary substances, forming a gel, and is applied onto the skin or onto the hair.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A shaped article containing:

- at least 10 wt.% of one or more ~~skeleton-forming~~ scaffold-forming agents, the 1 per-cent-by-weight solution or suspension of which in water at 20 °C and at pH 6-8 has a viscosity of less than 2000 mPa.s,
- 0.000001 wt.% up to 50 wt.% of one or more active substances,

- 0.1 wt.% to 70 wt.% of one or more auxiliary substances, and also
- up to 20 wt.% water,

with the proviso that the shaped article does not comprise any proteins by way of ~~skeleton-forming~~ scaffold-forming agents.

Claim 12 (currently amended): Shaped article according to Claim 11, wherein the ~~skeleton-forming~~ scaffold-forming agent is sodium alginate.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A shaped article, preferably according to Claim 11, containing at least one ~~skeleton-forming~~ scaffold-forming agent, proteins being excepted, optionally one or more active substances and also optionally one or more auxiliary substances, for the purpose of external application, which has:

- a density from 0.01 g/cm³ up to 0.8 g/cm³,
- a volume from 0.1 cm³ up to 6 cm³, and
- a diameter (maximum spacing between two points in the shaped article) of at least 6 mm.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A combination including at least one shaped article as defined in Claim 4 11 and also at least one aqueous solution that contains one or more active substances and/or auxiliary substances, in matching spatial arrangement.